

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W
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R 190908Z MAR 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2045
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0246
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK BY POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0137

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MARCH 14-20

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AT THE MARCH 17 PLENARY MEETING OF THE

VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, SOVIET REP TARASOV DELIVERED
A STIFFLY WORDED ATTACK ON THE MAIN ASPECTS OF THE WESTERN
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POSITION AND CALLED FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE EAST'S INTERIM FREEZE
PROPOSAL, NOTING THAT PRINCIPAL WESTERN OBJECTIONS TO THAT
PROPOSAL HAD NOW BEEN SHOWN TO BE INVALID BY THE DATA WHICH THE
EAST HAD TABLED. DURING THE POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING,
THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE WAY WAS OPEN TO FREEZE
NATO AND WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA INASMUCH
AS DATA TABLED BY THE EAST HAD VOIDED THE WESTERN DISPARITY

THESIS. THE MARCH 15 INFORMAL SESSION WAS AGAIN LARGELY DEVOTED TO THE ISSUE OF COUNTING RULES AND DATA. THE WEST FORMALLY PROPOSED EXAMINATION OF NATIONAL DATA FOR US AND SOVIET FORCES. THE EAST REJECTED THE IDEA ON GROUNDS THAT WHAT WAS REQUIRED WERE INDIVIDUAL TOTALS FOR ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. END SUMMARY

2. SOVIET REP TARASOV MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE MARCH 17 PLENARY MEETING OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS. HIS PRESENTATION INCLUDED A STIFFLY WORDED, POINT-BY-POINT ATTACK ON THE MAIN ASPECTS OF THE WESTERN POSITION. SOVIET REP EMPHASIZED THAT THE OFFICIAL DATA ON WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA TABLED BY THE EAST LAST JUNE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE WESTERN CONCEPT OF DISPARITY BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN FORCE LEVELS IN CENTRAL EUROPE WAS WITHOUT FOUNDATION IN FACT. SINCE THIS CONCEPT WAS AT THE HEART OF THE PRESENT WESTERN APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS, IT FOLLOWED THAT THAT APPROACH MUST BE CHANGED. TARASOV CONCLUDED BY CALLING FOR AGREEMENT ON THE EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AGREE NOT TO INCREASE THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THEIR FORCES IN THE AREA FOR THE DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN SO DOING, HE UNDERLINED THE POINT THAT THE PRINCIPAL WESTERN OBJECTIONS TO SUCH A FREEZE--LACK OF DATA AND CONTRACTUALIZATION OF THE EXISTING MANPOWER DISPARITY FAVORING THE EAST - HAD BOTH BEEN RENDERED INVALID BY DATA TABLED BY THE EAST.

(COMMENT: TARASOV'S STATEMENT MAY BE A PREVIEW OF THE OPENING MBFR POSITION THE SOVIETS WILL TAKE DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S UPCOMING TRIP TO MOSCOW. END COMMENT)

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3. THERE WAS AN UNUSUALLY LARGE ATTENDANCE OF EASTERN JOURNALISTS AND MEMBERS OF WARSAW PACT DELEGATIONS AT THE REGULAR POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING. IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT AND IN RESPONDING TO WHAT WERE ALMOST CERTAINLY PLANTED QUESTIONS FROM EASTERN CORRESPONDENTS, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN POINTEDLY DISMISSED THE WESTERN CONTENTION THAT THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT DISPARITY BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT FORCES IN THE AREA AS BEING CONTRIVED. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE WESTERN REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL WAS INEXPLICABLE.

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W
-----191119Z 009130 /12

R 190908Z MAR 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2046
SECDEF WASHDC
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0137

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

4. IN KEEPING WITH THE PATTERN OF RECENT WEEKS, BOTH EAST AND WEST MADE A GENERAL, OPENING STATEMENT AT THE MARCH 15 INFORMAL SESSION TALKS, WITH THE BALANCE OF THE SESSION GIVEN OVER TO FURTHER DISCUSSION OF COUNTING RULES AND DATA. IN THE COURSE OF THE LATTER, WESTERN REPS FORMALLY PROPOSED THAT PARTICIPANTS PROCEED TO THE CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL FIGURES FOR SOVIET AND US TROOP STRENGTH IN THE AREA. AFTER INDICATING THAT THE EAST WOULD DEFER A CONSIDERED RESPONSE TO THIS

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WESTERN SUGGESTION UNTIL A LATER DATE, SOVIET REP TARASOV WENT ON TO GIVE WHAT AMOUNTED TO A RATHER DETAILED REJECTION OF THE IDEA. HE SAID THE PROPOSAL WAS ILLOGICAL SINCE PARTICIPANTS WERE PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN EXAMINING OVERALL MANPOWER FIGURES FOR NATO AND WARSAW PACT FORCES AND THOSE FIGURES WERE, IN TURN, MADE UP OF NATIONAL FIGURES FOR ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. SPECIFICATION OF US AND SOVIET DATA ALONE WOULD NOT AID IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE SOURCES OF DATA DISCREPANCIES. RATHER,

SOVIET REP MAINTAINED THAT ONLY TABLING OF INDIVIDUAL TOTALS FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT COULD HAVE THIS EFFECT. THE EAST WAS PREPARED TO TAKE SUCH A STEP AND COULD NOT CONDONE THE RELUCTANCE OF NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO FOLLOW SUIT. GIVEN ITS LIMITED NATURE, TARASOV SAID THAT THE WESTERN PROPOSAL WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO EASTERN PARTICIPANTS. EARLIER, IN THE COURSE OF EXCHANGING FURTHER, SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING EACH SIDE'S DATA, EASTERN REPS STRONGLY ADHERED TO THE POSITION THAT THE FIGURES THEY HAD PROVIDED FOR WARSAW PACT FORCES WERE COMPLETE AND CONFORMED TO WESTERN STANDARDS FOR COUNTING MILITARY MANPOWER.

5. THE WESTERN STATEMENT MADE AT THE OUTSET OF THE MARCH 15 INFORMAL SESSION FOCUSED ON WESTERN PROPOSALS FOR STABILIZING MEASURES AND CALLED UPON THE EAST TO JOIN NOW IN MAKING THE TOPIC AN ACTIVE PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE OPENING EASTERN STATEMENT ATTACKED THE WESTERN POSITION ON COLLECTIVITY. IT CONTAINED A RESUME OF FAMILIAR EASTERN ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE CONCEPT. RESOR

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